

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 SR-02

ORM-01 SCCT-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-10 /087 W

----- 049943

R 071018Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3380

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1674

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PLO, SY

SUBJ: APPOINTMENT OF BRIG. WALID JAMUS, ACTING COMMANDER PLA

REFS: A. BEIRUT 5748; B. DAMASCUS 1135 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED APPOINTMENT OF JAMUS WITH SOURCE WHO HAS IN PAST PROVIDED RELIABLE INFORMATION ON PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT. HE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY BACKGROUND INFO ON JAMUS BUT SAID THAT HE TALKED WITH BUDAYRI FEW DAYS AGO AND BUDAYRI QUITE AGITATED OVER PUBLIC REPORTS THAT HE HAD BEEN "FIRED." SOURCE STATED THAT BUDAYRI HOLDS OFFICER COMMISSION IN SYRIAN MILITARY AND IN PAST ATTEMPTED TO RESIGN HIS PLA POSITION ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION IN ORDER RETURN TO SYRIAN MILITARY, BUT ASAD AND ARAFAT REFUSED TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION. ZOHAYR MUHSEN ON OTHER HAD ONLY TOO EAGER TO USE RESIGNATION LETTER AS PRETEXT TO BEGIN IMMEDIATE SEARCH FOR SUCCESSOR TO BUDAYRI.

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2. SOURCE ADDED THAT MAHMUD AZZAM, WHOM WE HAD REPORTED EARLIER (REFTEL B) AS ANNOUNCED SUCCESSOR TO BUDAYRI, HAD TOLD HIM THAT AIR FORCE COMMANDER NAJI JAMIL HAD BLOCKED HIS (AZZAM'S) APPOINTMENT TO PLA. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER SOURCE, AZZAM HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED OUT OF HIS JOB AS DEPUTY AIR FORCE CMDR. INTO AN UNSPECIFIED POSITION WITHIN SYRIAN MILITARY. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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